

# Dementia

Dementia is an umbrella term for a **range of disorders** which affect the functions of the **brain** over time. When an individual has dementia, it affects **different areas of their brain** and stops those areas from **working properly**. This means that dementia **affects people differently**.

**Task 1** Fill in the gaps below.

Dementia can affect anyone, but it is more common in people over the age of .....

There are over ..... types of dementia. The most common are .....  
 ..... and .....



**Task 2** The boxes below give some of the most common symptoms of dementia. In each box, describe how each symptom could affect someone's daily life.

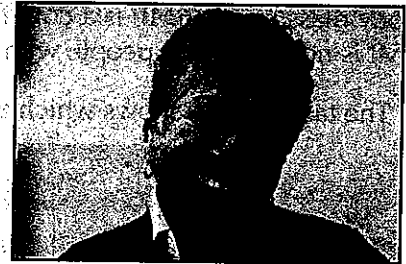
<b>Memory loss</b>
<b>Slow thinking and decision-making</b>
<b>Trouble speaking and using words properly</b>
<b>Problems understanding things</b>
<b>Problems managing mood and behaviour</b>

People experience dementia in different ways.  
 Symptoms vary and so does the way you can  
 help people manage their condition.

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**Task 3** Read through the case study below about Joan.

*My mum, Joan, has always looked after other people. She was a stay-at-home mum, looking after me and my four siblings. Later in life she looked after my dad, who passed away from bowel cancer ten years ago. She also helps me with my children by looking after them while I'm at work as a nurse. She's always been so kind and warm. I've been able to rely on her for everything.*

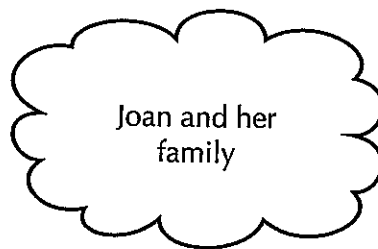


*I first noticed changes in Mum's behaviour a few years ago. She phoned me to say that someone had broken into her house. Of course I immediately went round, but there was no evidence of a break-in and when asked, Mum said she had cleaned everything up. Mum was in her late 80s at this point, so I thought it was just a part of cognitive decline.*

*More recently, Mum has had episodes of delirium and had to be admitted to hospital. She returned home after a few days but was then re-admitted for the same thing a few days later. At the hospital, the consultant diagnosed Mum with Alzheimer's disease.*

Use the space below to create a mind map of the **formal** and **informal** services and practitioners that will be able to **support** Joan and her family. For each, add some detail on the care and support they can provide.

Delirium is a sudden change in someone's mental state. It can indicate dementia, but not always.



## Being a calm practitioner requires a lot of patients...

The number of people being diagnosed with dementia is increasing year on year. Discuss why this might be, and the effects dementia has on sufferers and their families.